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A Martin Luther King Day Celebration will be held Saturday, Jan. 19, 1-3 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road. It is sponsored by Ventures in Community, a group of 60 faith communities and nonprofits that supplies volunteers to the hypothermia shelter at Rising Hope Church and meets monthly to hear relevant speakers. The event will include choirs, student essays on the importance of his message, reflection, and refreshments. Above, a photo from previous celebration. See www.facebook.com/venturesincommunity.

ERA Clears Senate Committee

Faces uncertainty in House.

BY GEORGIA GEEN
AND ALEXANDRA ZERNIK
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

An 8-6 vote by a Senate committee Wednesday, Jan. 9, brought the federal Equal Rights Amendment one step closer to passing the General Assembly — which could make Virginia the 38th and final state necessary to add the ERA to the U.S. Constitution. On Tuesday, Jan. 15, the Virginia Senate voted for ratification of the ERA 26-14.

The Senate Privileges and Elections Committee voted to approve a resolution that Virginia ratify the ERA, which was proposed by Congress in 1972 and would prevent federal and state governments from passing laws that discriminate on the basis of sex.

The six Democrats on the committee were joined by two Republicans — Sens. William DeSteph of Virginia Beach and Jill Holtzman Vogel of Fauquier — in voting for the resolution. The other six Republicans on the panel voted against it.

The resolution — SJ 284 — was sponsored by a bipartisan group of 15 senators and three House members.

The committee's decision will send the resolution to the Senate floor for a vote. While supporters are optimistic about bipartisan support in the Senate — which has passed similar proposals five times since 2011 — the same isn't true in the House.

A co-sponsor of the resolution, Del. Hala Ayala, D-Prince William, said it will face Republican opposition. If it clears the full Senate, SJ 284 would go to the House Privileges and Elections Committee, where such resolutions have traditionally died.

EVERY DEMOCRAT on the House panel has signaled support for ratifying the ERA, but no Republican has followed suit. The lack of GOP support in the House committee represents the biggest hurdle for the resolution, said Candace Graham, co-founder of Women Matter, a group dedicated to ratifying the ERA.

"We feel very confident that if we can get those couple of votes on the [House] committee that we

Priority: Recruit Great Teachers

Superintendent presents public schools' budget for FY 2020.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand presented a \$3.0 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Proposed Budget, with a focus on employee compensation, to the Fairfax County School Board at its business meeting on Jan. 10. The FY 2020 Proposed Budget represents an increase of \$117.4 million, or 4.1 percent, over the FY 2019 Approved Budget.

"Student success begins and ends with a highly qualified teacher in every classroom, which is why the FY 2020 Proposed Budget continues to focus on our strategic priority of recruiting and retaining great teachers through market competitive compensation," said Brabrand. "The proposed budget includes a \$55.2 million investment in the teacher salary scales which is the final phase of a multi-year plan to bring teacher salaries to the market average and includes a 1.0 percent market scale adjustment. Our goal is to ensure that every student-by name and by need—receives an excellent and equitable education in a 21st-century learning environment with the very best teachers."

"The FY 2020 Proposed Budget takes us closer to aligning with the four key priorities in our strategic plan — Student Success, Caring Culture, Premier Workforce, and Resource Stewardship," said Brabrand. "Resources are allo-



Scott S. Brabrand

cated to maximize student achievement and support classroom efforts to achieve Portrait of a Graduate outcomes for every FCPS student. We are reaffirming our commitment to keep the focus on students, teachers, and classroom instruction."

THE PROPOSED BUDGET includes \$46.8 million for a step increase for eligible employees, and \$8.2 million for a 1.0 percent market scale adjustment for employees who are not teachers. An additional \$12.0 million is provided for instructional programs, which includes funding to distribute a laptop to every high school student as part of the FCPSON 1-to-1 initiative to prepare students for college and careers.

The budget also realigns the elementary staffing standard which will result in an overall average class size reduction of 1.4 students at elementary schools during the primary hiring season.

"Since becoming superintendent, I have made it a priority to establish and maintain a cooperative and collaborative relationship with our county funding partners

SEE A \$3 BILLION. PAGE 5

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Stratford Landing | \$639,900

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Susan Taylor 703.927.3000
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Lake Ridge | \$369,000

Lovingly updated and maintained home on a cul-de-sac. Kitchen opens to the dining room which walks out to the spacious deck overlooking woodlands. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. The lower level features an inviting family room with wood-burning fireplace.
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General Assembly to Consider Legalizing Sports Betting

BY ANDREW GIONFRIDDO
AND BEN BURSTEIN
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Virginia would become the ninth state to legalize sports betting under legislation being considered by the General Assembly this session.

Lawmakers have introduced three bills to legalize sports betting, license betting operations and tax their revenues. Under the proposals, people would be able to bet only on professional sports; betting on college and youth sports would be prohibited.

Many legislators seem to agree that legalized sports betting is inevitable after the U.S. Supreme Court last year struck down a federal law prohibiting such gambling in most states.

"Sports gaming is going to be legal across the United States. There is no reason to keep it illegal, when our neighboring states are already moving to legalize," said Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), sponsor of SB 1238.

Petersen's measure would create the Virginia Sports Betting Department to regulate betting operations, which would be located only in localities that agree to allow gambling.

Under SB 1238, operators would pay an



Sen. Chap Petersen



Del. Mark Sickles



Del. Marcus Simon

application fee of \$5,000 and a tax of 10 percent of adjusted gross revenues. The department would keep 2.5 percent of the tax revenue to defray its administrative costs and help problem gamblers. The remaining money would be split between the locality where it was generated and a fund to help community college students.

Two Democratic delegates from Fairfax County also have filed bills to legalize sports betting. Under HB 1638, sponsored by Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), the Virginia Lottery would regulate sports betting. Betting operators would pay a \$250,000 application fee and a 15 percent tax on adjusted gross revenues. The lottery would retain 2.5 percent of the revenues to cover administrative costs and assist problem gamblers. The rest of the money would go toward a new initiative called the Virginia Research Investment Fund.

Besides sports betting, Sickles' bill also would authorize the Virginia Lottery to sell tickets over the internet — a practice now prohibited.

The third bill allowing sports betting is HB 2210, by Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). It would direct the Virginia Lottery to regulate electronic sports betting, and, like Sickles' legislation, to sell lottery tickets over the internet. Simon's bill would

impose a 10 percent tax on the gross adjusted revenue of operations that receive a permit to conduct sports betting. The lottery would keep 3 percent of the tax receipts; the rest would go into a fund to help problem gamblers.

HB 2210 would provide protections for people who may be susceptible to compulsive gambling. For example, people could voluntarily add themselves to a list of individuals who are excluded from engaging in electronic sports betting or buying lottery tickets. Simon's bill includes a section on "Sports Bettors Rights" and details procedures to ensure that people who win their bets receive their money, to intervene in instances of problem or at-risk bettors, to protect bettors' privacy and to provide "transparency of sports betting," such as the odds of winning a bet.

"I am introducing a Sports Bettors Bill of

Rights to make sure that consumers and participants are part of that conversation from the very beginning," Simon stated.

His "bill of rights" includes provisions to prohibit underage betting and prevent marketing sports betting to minors. Under all of the legislative proposals, sports betting would be limited to Virginians 21 and older — unlike the legal age to purchase lottery tickets, which is 18.

Simon's bill has been applauded by an organization of sports fans.

"This bill is the most consumer-friendly sports betting bill the Sports Fans Coalition has seen at any level of government," said Brian Hess, the group's executive director. "It is the only piece of legislation that hits all five of our Sports Bettors' Bill of Rights."

The coalition's five principles are "integrity and transparency; data privacy and security; self-exclusion; protection of the vulnerable; and recourse."

The U.S. Supreme Court opened the door to legalized sports betting in May when it overturned the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992. That federal law prohibited sports betting except in states like Nevada that had previously permitted such gambling.

Besides Nevada, sports betting is legal in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New Mexico and Mississippi.

U.S. District Court Sets Deadline for Redistricting 'Special Master'

BY DANIEL BERTI
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Before this year's elections, a federal court is working to redraw 11 Virginia House of Delegates districts that were ruled unconstitutional in 2017 for violating racial gerrymandering laws.

Bernard Grofman, a "special master" appointed by the U.S. District Court in Richmond to oversee the redistricting process, has presented judges with a plethora of alternatives to the current map. The court hasn't reached a decision on which one it will use, if any.

At a hearing Thursday, Jan. 7, in U.S. District Court in Richmond, judges gave Grofman until the end of this week to submit a complete recommendation. Parties in the case will have time to respond to his final report, and the recommendation could be sent back to the special master for additional changes.

Toby Heytens, counsel for the Virginia State Board of Elections, said he hopes changes to the current legislative map are finalized by the end of January. All seats in the Virginia House are up for election in November, and the political parties may choose their nominees during June primaries.

The Virginia General Assembly and Gov. Ralph Northam were given an opportunity to redraw the map themselves by Oct. 30, but Democrats and Republicans couldn't agree on new boundaries for the districts. The task of redrawing the unconstitutional



Bernard Grofman

districts was then passed to the judicial branch.

The Office of the Attorney General recommended Grofman, a political science professor at the University of California, Irvine, because he redrew Virginia's 3rd Congressional District,

which includes Hampton Roads, in 2015 after it was found to have violated racial gerrymandering laws.

Changes to the 3rd Congressional District made the 4th Congressional District, which includes Richmond and Southside Virginia, more Democratic and resulted in the election of Donald McEachin in 2016. McEachin won the 4th District with 58 percent of the vote. Republican J. Randy Forbes held the 4th District from 2001-2017.

The 11 Virginia House districts being redrawn in this case are located primarily in the eastern part of the state, between Richmond and Hampton Roads, and touch an additional 20 districts.

Last Thursday's hearing gave attorneys and interested parties on both sides an opportunity to comment on Grofman's proposed remedial maps. Attorneys were also able to question Grofman on the witness stand.

Grofman spent most of the morning defending his methodology against criticisms from attorneys for House Republicans.

Mark Braden, attorney for House Speaker

Kirk Cox, R-Colonial Heights, attempted to show that Grofman acted improperly by using racial data to create the new districts, an allegation that Grofman flatly denied.

Grofman repeatedly said that race was not taken into account and that he relied solely on traditional redistricting criteria such as compactness, locality boundaries, election results and contiguity to redraw the 11 unconstitutional districts.

Katherine McKnight, also an attorney for Cox, contended that the remedial maps drawn by Grofman violated the Constitution by using racial data to create new district boundaries. McKnight said Grofman's maps showed "a fundamental misunderstanding of what needs to be remedied."

Judge Robert E. Payne pushed back against McKnight's remarks, however, and questioned her characterization of the special master's proposed changes.

"If there was no intentional application of race in [Grofman's] process, how can it violate the Constitution?" Payne asked.

Attorneys for Cox stated a preference for redistricting changes proposed in HB 7002, a bill proposed during a special legislative session last year, instead of the remedial maps proffered by Grofman. They say that HB 7002 remedies the constitutional violations in the 11 racially gerrymandered districts while impacting the fewest possible voters.

Kevin Hamilton, an attorney for the African-American voters who brought the case, equated HB 7002 with "tidying up a crime scene."

Allison Riggs, an attorney representing the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP, said the proposed remedial maps were an improvement from the existing lines but didn't go far enough in addressing racial gerrymandering.

In its initial ruling in the years-long case, the U.S. Supreme Court found that the districts in question had been racially gerrymandered by the 2011 General Assembly to dilute the voting power of African-American voters.

Legislators lost the authority to draw the new district lines, at least for the time being, because they couldn't reach a deal quickly enough.

Republicans appealed the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling and asked the court to delay the redrawing until it hears their appeal later this spring. The Supreme Court denied that request, giving the U.S. District Court the green light to continue redrawing the district maps.

The District Court's final decision will impact only the 2019 election. District lines will be redrawn statewide after the U.S. Census Bureau releases new demographic data in 2020.

Several lawmakers have introduced legislation to create an independent redistricting commission that would take the process out of the hands of lawmakers. Those legislators include Democrats such as Del. Steve Heretick of Portsmouth and Sen. Creigh Deeds of Bath as well as Republicans like Del. Mark Cole of Fredericksburg and Sen. Emmett Hanger of Augusta.

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CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

ROBBERY: 8400 block of Richmond Highway, Jan. 13, 12:00 a.m. The victim was approached by a man that showed a handgun and demanded his personal belongings and cash. The victim was not injured.

STOLEN AUTO: 4000 block of Ferry Landing Rd, Jan. 9, 8:55 p.m. Officers were dispatched to a single-car crash where the driver left the scene. A 20-year-old man from Washington, D.C., was found walking near the scene. He admitted to the crash, and was in possession of a concealed gun with the serial number removed. The car was discovered to be stolen from Prince George's County. The man was arrested and charged with concealed weapon, stolen firearm, hit and run, provide false identification to law enforcement, possession of stolen property, and unauthorized use.

STOLEN AUTO / PURSUIT: 2800 Beacon Hill Road (7-11), Jan. 1, 11:30 p.m. The victim's silver 2016 Toyota Prius, VA tag VKW8981, was stolen in the 7-11 parking lot after she left her keys in the ignition. An officer spotted the car and it sped away near Route 1 near Huntington Avenue. The officer was unable to catch up to the car.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY: 2600 block of Arlington Drive, between Jan. 4 and Jan. 8. The property manager for the apartment complex found a broken window on one of his units. The thermostat had been raised inside. This unit also had a broken window last week.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING: 3100 Lockheed Blvd. (7-Eleven), Jan. 4, 10:11 a.m. Officers were called to a fight between two men in the parking lot of 7-Eleven. One man had a small puncture wound in his torso. A 60-year-old man from Alexandria was arrested and charged with malicious wounding. The victim was taken to a local hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening.

ASSAULT ON A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: 5800 block of Cameron Run Terrace, Jan. 6, 6:44 p.m. Officers were investigating a trespassing and assault complaint. During the investigation, a man became irate and assaulted an officer. The 45-year-old man of no fixed address was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer and drunk in public.

**JAN. 14
LARCENIES**
2200 block of Harvard Drive, wallet from vehicle
8400 block of Richmond Highway, property from residence
1900 block of Chain Bridge Road, merchandise from business
8200 block Russell Road, merchandise from business
3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, merchandise from business

**JAN. 11
LARCENIES**
5500 block of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, ring from residence
6600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
8800 block of Richmond Highway, liquor from business

**JAN. 9
LARCENIES**
200 block of Denfield Drive, tools from vehicle
8300 block of Pondsides Terrace, tools from vehicle
7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
2500 block of Sherwood Hall Lane, cell phone from location
STOLEN VEHICLES
3200 block of Lockheed Boulevard, 2013 Ford Expedition

Learn about Bus Rapid Transit

Fairfax County will hold a public information meeting on the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project:

❖ Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Mt. Vernon High School (cafeteria), 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria

❖ Snow Date: Feb. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m., West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria

The meeting will feature an interactive open house from 6:30-7 p.m., a presentation at 7 p.m. and a continuation of the open house until 8:30 p.m. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) staff and project consultants will provide updates on the BRT project, discuss next steps, answer questions and take public comments from the community related to the planning and design of the BRT system. Spanish Translation will be available at the meeting.

Transportation will be available from Sacramento Neighborhood Center, South County Government Center, and Hybla Valley Elementary School.

On-site childcare is also available, per request, for children over the age of 3.

Community members who would benefit from additional translation services should contact FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711, no later than seven days prior to the meeting.

Requests for transportation and childcare accepted until Jan. 18, by contacting Maria Franco-Nativi at 703-704-6700, TTY 711, or by email at maria.franco-nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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NEWS

ERA Progresses

FROM PAGE 1

need for it to go to the floor, then it will pass on the floor," Graham said.

When first introduced in 1923, the ERA did not pass in Congress. Renewed interest in 1972 pushed the amendment through Congress, and it was ratified by 35 states within the 10-year period before the 1982 deadline.

An amendment needs approval from three-fourths of the states — or 38 — for ratification.

In recent years, there has been a revived push toward ratification. In 2017, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the ERA, followed by Illinois the next year.

Sen. Scott Surovell, D-Fairfax, also co-sponsored SJ 284. He said the recent ratification by Nevada and Illinois has improved the outlook in Virginia and contributed to a new wave within the movement.

"Nevada and Illinois showed us that there are other legislatures in this country that are moving the ball forward," Surovell said. "I think the urgency and the historical importance of being the state that puts us across the top really sort of changes the political and emotional dynamic of the issue."

Unlike other recent efforts in Virginia, this year's resolution is supported by several Republicans — including Sens. Sturtevant, DeSteph and Siobhan Dunnivant of Henrico.

"We haven't [previously] had a Republican who's been willing to step up and actually carry this bill," Surovell said.

Advocates also see renewed momentum in the form of 20,000 signatures on a petition and a poll showing that more than 80 percent of Virginians favor ratification.

"So we're hopeful that all those things combined are going to make this year a different year," Surovell

"I think the urgency and the historical importance of being the state that puts us across the top really sort of changes the political and emotional dynamic of the issue."

— State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36)

said. Because the deadline has expired, some say the ERA can't be ratified. But other experts disagree. The 27th Amendment, which regulates congressional salaries, was ratified more than 200 years after its 1789 introduction, though it was never given a time limit, unlike the ERA.

"There are very smart and reasonable people on both sides who disagree over whether Congress has the constitutional authority in the first place to put a time limit on the ratification of a constitutional amendment," said Sen. Glen Sturtevant, R-Richmond, who also is a chief co-sponsor of the resolution.

OPPONENTS of the ERA say they fear it could result in integrated prisons and sports teams and fewer specific protections for women and could threaten female-only universities and organizations.

Colleen Holcomb, a lawyer and lobbyist representing the Family Foundation — which opposes the ERA — referred to it as a "fundraiser cause."

But advocates for the amendment view specific constitutional protections based on sex as necessary for gender equality.

"When you're used to privilege, equality feels like oppression. They say, 'You want special privileges.' We don't want special privileges. We just want what everyone else enjoys," said Eileen Davis, co-founder of Women Matter. "Race, religion, national origin all have strict constitutional scrutiny — sex does not."

A \$3 Billion School Budget

FROM PAGE 1

- the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive," Brabrand continued. "In FY 2019, we received full funding for the first time in more than 20 years and we will continue to work in tandem with the County to address the investment needs of our school division."

The budget assumes a slight decrease in student enrollment which will result in savings of \$6.3 million. Overall, the FY 2020 budget allocates 86 percent of available funding to instructional programs with more than 93 percent of employees school-based. When aligned to the FCPS Strategic Plan, Ig-

nite, 53 percent of FCPS programs have been identified as supporting Student Success.

The presentation of the FY 2020 Proposed Budget is the starting point of the budget process, which ends in May with the School Board's adoption of the Approved Budget. The 2020 fiscal year begins July 1, 2019.

The Fairfax County School Board will hold work sessions on the FY 2020 budget on Tuesday, Jan. 22, and Thursday, Jan. 31, along with a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 28 (and Jan. 29 and 30, if needed).

The School Board will adopt its Advertised Budget on Feb. 7 and present the budget to the Board of Supervisors on April 9.



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Alex/Stratford \$574,900
2601 Culpeper Road
Price just reduced on this — Lovely 4BR, 3BA home with carport in popular Stratford on the Potomac. Situated in sought after Stratford Elementary school district. Well maintained home. Replacement windows. Freshly painted interior with refinished hardwood floors. Beautiful landscaping. Updated baths. Family room with gas fireplace. You'll love it!!



Alex/Mt. Vernon Woods \$362,500
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$509,900
8323 Blowing Rock
Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA Split on a beautiful, .25 acre fenced lot! Become a member of coveted Riverside Estates for the great price of \$509,900. Upgraded kitchen w/12" ceramic tile floor, granite counter tops & SS appliances. Double pane windows & 6 panel doors throughout. Updated baths & hardwood floors covered by carpet on main & upper levels. Barbecue and entertain out back on a charming slate patio. This will go quickly — 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir, and 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex.



Alex/Engleside \$1,300,000
8734 Lukens Lane
4.128 acres zones R-2 for sale. There are 2 lots: 4/0 acres w/house (Tax Map 1101 01 0043) and .128 acre vacant land (1101 01 0043A). House on Property sold "AS IS" and NO ACCESS given or allowed. Land Value only. Water, sewer, gas, electricity available. This land is adjacent to the houses on Halley Farm Ct. which were built in the 2010-2011 time frame.



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OPINION

Pay Attention, State Legislature Not Gridlocked

Thousands of bills could have big impact on your life, for better or worse.

A week is already completed in the short (45-day) session of the Virginia General Assembly, and so many important things are in the works, in danger of happening or not happening, that no one can have a clear view of it all.

An example: The Senate Courts of Justice Committee voted for a bill 8-6 that would bar the execution of people with serious mental illnesses. Possibly you didn't realize that it is legal to execute someone with serious mental illness, because it makes no sense. But this bill failed last year.

Another success for the moment: increasing the minimum wage to \$15 over several years also cleared Senate committee.

Do you know who your Virginia delegate and senator are? Every resident of Virginia gets one of each. Enter your address here: <https://whosmy.viriniageneralassembly.gov/> to find out all of your representatives, plus contact information. Call and tell them, or leave a message, about what matters to you. Send an email. Connect to them on Facebook and watch for live Q&A sessions.

Here you can search legislation by bill number or keyword, find video and streaming: <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>

Last week's editorial, a long legislative wish list, <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2019/jan/08/opinion-editorial-wish-list-things-session-general/> still omitted many important actions, despite its length. One in particular made it into some editions and not oth-

ers: To establish equal rights for LGBT Virginians, especially in housing and public employment.

Here are a few more important items:

The Virginia State Conference NAACP Criminal Justice Committee supports the passage of the following bills that are up for debate in this legislative session:

❖ HB 1651 - Raises grand larceny limit from \$500 to \$750 (Del Hayes)

❖ HB 1642 - Increases data collection on use of solitary confinement (Del Hope)

❖ SB 1013 - Repeals suspension of drivers licenses for not paying fines (Sen Stanley; Del Kory)

❖ SB 1053 and HB 1745 - Makes juvenile offenders sentenced to life automatically eligible for parole after serving 25 years. (Sen Marsden; Del Lindsey)

❖ HB 2616 - Raises the minimum age a child can be tried as an adult from 14 to 16 (Del Guzman) (And this is still far too low.)

❖ SB 1551, HB 1685, HB 1873 and HB 1688 - Limits the scope of what School Resource Officers can get involved, prohibits students from being charged with disorderly conduct, and mandates data collection of use of force against students. (Sen Surovell, Del Schuyler T. VanValkenburg, Del Bourne; Del Mullin)

❖ SB 997 - Decriminalizes simple marijuana possession. (Sen Ebbin)

❖ SB 1008 - Bans mechanical devices designed to increase rate of bullets firing. (Sen Ebbin)

❖ SB 1013 - Repeals the requirement that

the driver's license of a person convicted of any violation of the law who fails or refuses to provide payment of fines be suspended. (Sen Stanley)

❖ SB 1034 - Prohibits any person who is not a licensed firearms dealer from purchasing more than one handgun in a 30-day period. (Sen Locke)

❖ HB 1991 - Labels violent hate groups as domestic terrorists (Del Price)

❖ HB 2472 - Adds gender, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation to the categories of victims whose intentional selection for a hate crime results in a higher criminal penalty for the offense. (Del. Kenneth R. Plum)

Contact House Courts of Justice members: Robert B. Bell (chairman), Leftwich (vice chair), Kilgore, Gilbert, L.R. Adams, J.L. Campbell, Collins, Miyares, Ransone, R.R. Campbell, Watts, Toscano, Herring, Hope, Mullin, Bourne, Simon, Carroll Foy.

Senate Courts of Justice members: Obenshain (chairman), Saslaw, Norment, Howell, Lucas, Edwards, McDougale, Stuart, Stanley, Reeves, Chafin, Deeds, Sturtevant, Petersen, and Peake.

Find contact information <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/>

See our website www.ConnectionNewspapers.com for many stories from the General Assembly from the Capital News Service, written by journalism students from VCU.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Governor's Budget Shows Progress

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

This week, I was honored to be named to the Privilege and Elections Committee by Speaker Cox. I will be replacing my colleague and new state senator, Jennifer Boysko, on the committee. This means I now sit on three committees: Privileges and Elections; Counties, Cities and Towns; and Appropriations. The first week of the legislative session has been an especially busy one on the Appropriations Committee. Over the past week we have been briefed by the Appropriations staff and Secretary of Finance Aubrey Lane on Governor Northam's budget amendments. After reviewing the Governor's budget, I am thrilled with

COMMENTARY

his changes.

The Governor has managed to invest in the future of Virginia while maintaining a fiscally responsible budget. He has proposed setting aside \$1.1 billion in reserve funds, including last year's surplus to maintain our valuable triple-A bond rating. Additionally, he has invested in large, bold one-time expenditures that will make huge differences in the lives of thousands of Virginians without creating unpaid long term deficits.

While the Trump tax cuts were aimed at increasing corporate profits, Governor Northam's

amended budget is targeted towards working families. Frankly, working one job should be good enough to provide for a family. That is why Governor Northam has proposed to make the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) fully refundable. Currently, under Virginia law the EITC is used to offset the taxpayers bill but if the bill is less than the credit (as of 2017 the credit is a maximum of \$510 for a qualifying individual with no children) the taxpayer doesn't get the difference. These extra dollars could make a big difference in the lives of many working Virginians. Furthermore, making the Earned Income Tax Credit refundable would account for only 0.4 percent of the Virginia operating budget. This is an investment in the middle class that Virginia can afford to make. We can and should join 24 other states in making this tax credit fully refundable.

I am also proud that several of my proposals are included in Governor Northam's budget. The Governor allocated \$200,000 for the Grow Your Own Teacher pilot program, which aims to increase the teacher workforce and diversity in Title I schools across Virginia. My bill will provide four-year college scholarships and institutional support to low-income high school seniors who are committed to teach in their school district's high-need public schools.

Additionally, \$10 million is included in the Governor's budget, an increase of \$5.5 million from last year, for the Virginia Land Conserva-

tion Foundation. This is great news as the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation awards grants to help fund the purchase of permanent conservation easements, open spaces and parklands, lands of historic or cultural significance, farmlands and forests, and natural areas. I will be introducing HB 2009 which will establish a ranking procedure to allocate these grants going forward. This ranking procedure will ensure funds are disbursed appropriately and at an efficient cost.

Lastly, the Virginia Housing Trust Fund has \$19 million allocated in the Governor's budget. Affordable housing is a serious challenge in our community and this increase is a step in the right direction for the Commonwealth. I will continue to work to ensure that every Virginian can lead a quality life, starting with affordable housing.

All of these investments will help us work towards creating a more fair and just Commonwealth. I look forward to working with my General Assembly colleagues to implement as many of the Governors amendments as possible. I hope to see you at one of our two town meetings on Saturday where we will discuss the Governor's budget, legislation in the General Assembly and the issues facing our community. The first town hall will be at Walt Whitman Middle School starting at 9 a.m. and the second will be at Hayfield Elementary School starting at noon.

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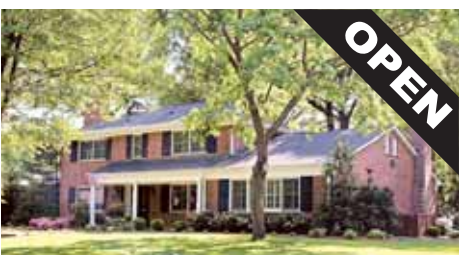
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News

From ERA to Redistricting

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
 STATE SENATOR (D-36)

The first three days of the General Assembly ended on Friday and it is proving to me a busy session.

On the first day of session, my legislation to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was debated in the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee. ERA would prohibit the government from discriminating against all persons on the basis of sex. It does not apply to discrimination by private

COMMENTARY

individuals (which is covered by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other laws).

The Commonwealth and the country have a long history of discrimination against women and although most forms of explicit discrimination have ended, there are still government actions taken that have disparate impacts on women and as we have seen from recent events, even the most basic political norms can be easily overturned. I believe this value needs to be reflected in our Constitution.

Last week's hearing was one of the most well-attended committee meetings I have seen in the 10 years I have served. The resolution passed 8-6 with all Democrats and two Republican senators supporting the measure. It will be debated in the Senate this week. The House of Delegates has traditionally refused to hold a hearing on the bill. Hopefully, that will change this year.

We are also expected to take up redistricting reform this year. Virginia is required to redraw all of our political districts in 2021 after the national census occurs in 2020. The legislature draws all boundaries for congressional and legislative districts.

Historically, the majority caucuses of each chamber have drawn the districts and as computers have become more powerful, district lines have become more creative and contorted. The lines of the 36th Senate District make little sense to any of my constitu-

ents.

If the General Assembly is going to start the process of amending the Constitution of Virginia, then we must pass a constitutional amendment this session and then again in the 2020 session. In other words, this is our last chance to start that process before the next redistricting.

I believe that redistricting is one of the most fundamental problems in American politics and that the last people who should be drawing these lines are the members who will benefit. However, we must give a non-partisan or bipartisan commission the correct criteria to use and the bills that the existing majority has supported so far have not used neutral criteria.

Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay asked me to introduce legislation that would give Fairfax County more powers to fine businesses that do not control their shopping carts. This a problem not just on U.S. 1 but also in the Springfield business community. I am also carrying bills that would create consequences for local government entities that violate the Freedom of Information Act. Closed meeting requirements are routinely violated by local governments. Also, there are little to no consequences for destroying documents or emails to avoid producing them in response to a public records request. My legislation would create a fine structure.

Finally, we are working on legislation to fund improvements to I-81 including a tolling structure. This road is in dire need of widening, but the Governor has proposed to allow Virginia EZ-Pass holders to pay no tolls on I-81 in exchange for paying a \$30 annual fee. Given that the 36th District contains people that have to pay \$30 per day in tolls, that idea is a non-starter for me. Instead of tolls and this "toll pass," I am working with other legislators to support a wholesale gas tax increase that would also help fund more projects cross the entire Commonwealth including here in the 36th District.

400 Years and Counting ...

BY ADAM EBBIN
 STATE SENATE (D-30)

The annual General Assembly session is well underway. What began in a Jamestown church in 1619 as a six-day meeting of the House of Burgesses, comprised of 22 white British male settlers, has evolved into the modern Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate that is meeting currently for its 46-day "short" session. The issues have vastly changed but history is still being made.

COMMENTARY

Eileen Filler-Corn of Fairfax, the new Democratic Leader in the House, is the first woman to lead on either side of the aisle in either body. Charniele Herring of Alexandria continues in her role as the House Caucus Chair and Mamie Locke of Hampton remains the Senate Democratic Caucus Chair. This is also the

first year that the Commonwealth's voters elected three women (all Democrats) to the U.S. House of Representatives. At no time in Virginia's history have women held more power than today.

This session marks Virginia's chance to become the 38th (and final) state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. I was honored to speak on and vote for ratification as a member of the Privileges and Elections Committee, and will do the same when it heads to the Senate floor.

The Burgesses certainly did not even conceive of the fundamental equality of women and minorities and would have flabbergasted that we will be considering sports and casino gambling in this year. After all, it was in 1619 when Burgesses outlawed games of chance with the penalty of a 10 shilling fine — one shilling would go to the

SEE 400 YEARS, PAGE 14

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ENTERTAINMENT

‘Guys and Dolls Jr.:’ On Taking Risks

**Children’s musical
about love and
gamblers set in
1920s’ New York City.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre (ACCT) is presenting “Guys and Dolls Jr.” from Jan. 18-27. Set in New York City, “Guys and Dolls Jr.” follows gambler Nathan Detroit as he tries to find the cash to set up the biggest crap game in town while the authorities breathe down his neck. Meanwhile, his girlfriend and nightclub performer, Adelaide, laments that they’ve been engaged for 14 years without getting married. Nathan turns to fellow gambler Sky Masterson for the dough but Sky ends up chasing the straight-laced missionary, Sarah Brown.

Director Emily “EJ” Jonas said she grew up in Alexandria and loved seeing the shows as a child. “I decided to direct this musical because I love the opportunity to work with students of all ages, and I love the risk-taking theme of this musical,” she said.

She said her goal was to bring the risk-taking lifestyle of New York City in the 1920s to the greater Washington, D.C., area. “Many of these classic musicals can be looked at through different eyes and from multiple perspectives. Our production looks at the theme of risk through the eyes of the women. Adelaide and Sarah are committed to their bets. They each take a risk to step forward in their lives and embrace the world they are in. They make a bet and they win,” she said.

Producer Jennifer Saunders said she’s always been passionate about musical theater. “I truly love watching young actors develop their skills and then shine on stage. They are all so talented, brave and fun. A young cast brings so much energy and excitement to the process of putting on a musical. It was especially fun watching them take on a classic like ‘Guys & Dolls!’ It’s been a pleasure being a part of the backstage magic that allows young actors to practice their craft and then shine with joy at showtime,” she said.

Brett Medley is playing the role of Sky Masterson, who has the classic confidence from the golden days of Broadway. “His character arc essentially revolves around how he’s changed by Sarah, and furthermore by love. He starts as this respected man at the top of the gambling game and this comes into play in his interactions with other gamblers in the show. As he interacts more with Sarah, we see him come out of his shell and open up more about how he’s feeling, which is something he’s never done before,” he said.

Claire Fuller is playing the role of Benny Southstreet, one of the craps shooters who helps Nathan with his craps game. “She definitely helps him keep his craps game afloat, with the help of Nicely-Nicely Johnson and Rusty Charlie. My character has been helping Nathan with his game for a long time and it has helped her fill her wallet during the Great Depression,” she said.

Ellee St. Pierre plays the General of the Mission. “I don’t believe that Sarah Brown’s mission branch is successful enough to keep open. I’m skeptical of her ability to recruit sinners, and I plan on shutting her branch of mission down if she doesn’t prove that she can bring people in,” she said.

Jefrey Lopez is playing the role of Nicely-Nicely Johnson who is part of a comic-re-



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROS

The cast of ACCT’s production of “Guys and Dolls” in rehearsals (from bottom left): Claire Fuller (Benny); Adam Martineau (Arvide); Sophia Stine (Adelaide); Nate Jones (Nathan Detroit); Ellie St. Pierre (General Cartwright); Catherine Weingold (Harry the Horse); Isabella Spooner (Kitty); and Joel Simpson (Rusty).

lief trio. “I, along with Benny Southstreet and Rusty Charlie, am there to lighten up the atmosphere and contrast with the seriousness of the Sky and Sarah love-story. Nicely, as I see it, is a condescending, yet well-meaning, know-it-all,” he said.

Mary Margaret Bargery is playing the role of Sarah Brown. “She is organized, proper, caring, and virtuous, but she also struggles with a judgmental mentality towards the ‘sinners’ she aspires to save. Her rather severe exterior serves as a wall that hides her adorable innocence and potent fear of failure. I interpret that Sarah is struggling with herself and who she is. She suppresses her desire to take a risk and experience more of what life has to offer outside of the mis-

sion,” she said.

Sophia Stine is playing the role of Adelaide, a sassy, confident actress. “She is madly in love with Nathan and wants things her way all of the time. She hates the crap game, dreams of getting married, and is constantly getting sick. Achool!” she said.

♦ ♦ ♦

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre is presenting “Guys and Dolls Jr.” from Jan. 18-27. Show times are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m.; and Monday, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. (holiday). The venue is located at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit www.acctonline.org.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

George Washington’s Mount Vernon is Open. George Washington’s Mount Vernon, a private, non-profit organization that does not accept government funding, will remain open through the partial government shutdown. Mount Vernon visitors can tour the first president’s Mansion, explore the gardens and grounds, and visit Washington’s final resting place. The Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center, Be Washington interactive theater, and the 4D Revolutionary War Theater offer visitors and immersive experience to learn about George Washington and the Founding Era. Specialty tours are offered daily for an additional cost. Visit mountvernon.org.

Art Exhibit: Bringing Words to Life. Through Jan. 27 at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St., Alexandria. The exhibit is a part of Del Ray Artisans’ Gallery Without Walls program in partnership with VCA Alexandria. The show pairs a line from an artist’s favorite song, poem, book, or speech with the artist’s visual interpretation of that quote. Patrons may view the artwork at VCA Alexandria during regular business hours and at the discretion of hospital staff. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww.

Exhibit: “Hard Wired.” Through Jan. 31 at Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Ave. NW Washington, D.C. Tory Cowles of Potomac is represented by Touchstone Gallery, a resident artist in Studio 7 at Alexandria’s Torpedo Factory, and an abstract painting instructor at Glen Echo Park’s Yellow Barn. Her work evolves out of a spontaneous abstract expressionist process which depends on the rawness of the materials, the

unexpectedness of the composition, and the mystery of how materials are transformed. Artist talk, Saturday, Jan. 19, 4-6 p.m. Call 202-347-3787 or visit www.touchstonegallery.com.

Art Exhibit: “Destroy the Picture.” Through Feb. 2, Wednesday-Saturday, noon-6 p.m. at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Beverly Ryan has been a resident artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center since 2001 and has taught at The Art League School in Alexandria, Va., for 15 years. She has curated several shows of abstract painting, narrative painting and encaustic painting. Between 1949 and 1962, numerous painters including Alberto Burri, Salvatore Scarpitta and Yves Klein produced artwork that incorporated destruction in their processes. The book *Destroy the Picture: Painting the Void*, written and edited by Paul Schimmel describes the exhibition of these works in Los Angeles at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 2012-2013. In

the spring of 2018, this work inspired Beverly Ryan to lead a group of her students to explore destruction and re-creation of artworks from previously unresolved paintings. Visit www.bethesda.org/bethesda/gallery-b.

Art Exhibit: “Lift Us Up, Don’t Push Us Out.” Through Feb. 3, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery in Studio 21, Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Performing Statistics: a Project by ART180 and Legal Aid Justice Center – “Lift Us Up, Don’t Push Us Out” asks the question, how would criminal justice reform differ if it was led by incarcerated youth? Connecting incarcerated youth at the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center with artists, legal experts, and advocates to reimagine Virginia’s juvenile justice system, this exhibition provides the answer. Including virtual reality experiences, photography, murals, and interactive audio installations that use human

touch to activate stories from youth in the system, their media campaigns and mobile exhibits have connected the dreams, stories, and policy demands of youth in the juvenile justice system with tens of thousands across Virginia and beyond. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Art Exhibit: It’s Not All Black and White. Through Feb. 3, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily (Thursdays until 9 p.m.) at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 29, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show, *It’s Not All Black and White*. It may be black and white (dreary) outside but Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery radiates with color. In addition to lovely neutral pieces, artists have warmed their space with colorful creations. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Free admission. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com or

ENTERTAINMENT



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Photography Exhibit: Fax Ayres. Through Feb. 24, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to imbue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Beginner Square Dance Lessons. Through March 27, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Keep up with New Year's resolutions and enjoy both mental and physical exercise with Square Dance Lessons. \$30 for each four-week session. Open to couples, singles and groups. Email boomerangs@wascaclubs.com or call 571-210-5480.

FRIDAY/JAN. 18

Traveling by Pullman. 7:30-9 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The name Pullman is synonymous with first class rail travel. Join Kevin Tankersley for an overview of the Pullman Company, and learn how the D.C. National Railway Historical Society chapter interprets the Pullman experience by operating the Pullman car Dover Harbor today. Free. Visit dcnrhs.org.

JAN. 18-27

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week. For 10 days and two weekends, 65 restaurants in Alexandria, Virginia, will offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one or a \$35 dinner for two. More than 35

restaurants will also offer lunch menus at \$15 or \$22 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Brunch lovers can enjoy brunch menus for \$15 or \$22 per person at 14 restaurants. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 19

Children's Program on Deer. 10-11 a.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. White-tailed deer are our largest mammal neighbors, and kids can learn all about these graceful animals in the "Dashing Deer" program. Children age 2-6 can join a park naturalist and learn to appreciate the wonderful life of a deer from fawn to doe or buck. There will be hands-on activities, songs and a guided walk in search of deer and their tracks. Participants will also create a craft to take home. Cost is \$10 per child. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Artist Talk: "Hard Wired." 4-6 p.m. at Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Ave. NW Washington, D.C. Tory Cowles of Potomac is represented by Touchstone Gallery, a resident artist in Studio 7 at Alexandria's Torpedo Factory, and an abstract painting instructor at Glen Echo Park's Yellow Barn. Her work evolves out of a spontaneous abstract expressionist process which depends on the rawness of the materials, the unexpectedness of the composition, and the mystery of how materials are transformed. Call 202-347-3787 or visit www.touchstonegallery.com.

JAN. 19-MARCH 3

Art Exhibit: Ritualisms. Gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N.

Union St., Alexandria. New Target Gallery Exhibition contemplates the universality of rituals. The exhibition juxtaposes different artists' interpretations of rituals through their work, daily routines, habits, or personal quirks. It also brings in broader cultural formalities and religious ceremonies. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 20

What's Buggin' You? 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Bring your bug questions and stories for entomologist Nate Erwin who will present a colorful slide show about insects and their associated plants. Find out how to attract butterflies and fireflies or put a name to that curious bug in the garden last year. Cost is \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

THURSDAY/JAN. 24

Play "House Detective." 1-2 p.m. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Adults are invited to come to Historic Huntley to discover some of the clues that help historians unravel the mystery surrounding a property. What can architectural details and styles tell historians? Examine photographs, artifacts and the buildings of Historic Huntley to resolve some of its unexplained past. \$5. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

JAN. 24-FEB. 24

"Three Sistahs." At MetroStage, 1201



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ENTERTAINMENT

N. Royal St., Alexandria. "Three Sistahs" is an intimate musical which exposes the souls of three strong independent women as they gather together in the family home one last time. They reflect on the past, present and their hope for the future with powerful music and insights about their lives and relationships. Performances will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m., and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Jan 24- Feb 24, 2019. Tickets are \$55 with student and active military and group discounts available. Four or more tickets are \$50 each. Call the theatre at 703-548-9044 or go online to www.metrostage.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

Container Gardens for the

Yardless. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Just because you don't have a yard doesn't mean you can't have a garden. Learn how to brighten your home with plants and flowers. Whether in flower pots, hanging baskets or window boxes, container gardens are beautiful, easy and rewarding. At this Garden Talk with Extension Master Gardeners, learn how to create a dazzling display with eye-catching perennials and annuals. Get information and inspiration to design your own container gardens. Cost is \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Family Splash Night. 6-9 p.m. At Chiquapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring James K. Polk and William Ramsay Schools. Enjoy swimming, a floating obstacle course,

games, relays, refreshments, music, diving for prizes and more. Different schools are featured at each event but all are welcome. Admission is \$4 per person upon entry. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

SUNDAY/JAN. 27

Wild Women of Washington. 1-3:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. From newspaperwomen and suffragettes to rebellious first ladies and socialites, the nation's capital has attracted many unladylike ladies over the years. Hear their stories as author Camden Schwantes discusses her book, "Wild Women of Washington, D.C.: A History of Disorderly Conduct from the Ladies of the District." Reservations are required. \$42 for the program and tea; \$18 for the program only. To make reservations for tea, call 703-941-7987, or to learn more about the historic site, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

MONDAY/JAN. 28

Bullying and Lockdowns:

Perspectives on School

Security. 7:15 p.m. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Part of the Agenda:Alexandria program, which falls on the fourth Monday of the month, begin at 7:15 p.m. Programs are \$5 each or free with your \$35 membership, payable online at www.AgreendaAlexandria.org/sign-up page or at the door by check or credit. All are invited to a pre-program dinner if desired. Dinner is 6:45-7:15 p.m., prices starting at \$32 with reservations by the Friday prior to the program. Visit

www.Agreenda:Alexandria.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 1

Family Splash Night. 6-9 p.m. At Chiquapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring Ferdinand T. Day and Samuel W. Tucker schools. Enjoy swimming, a floating obstacle course, games, relays, refreshments, music, diving for prizes and more. Different schools are featured at each event but all are welcome. Admission is \$4 per person upon entry. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

"New Beginnings" Opening

Reception. 7-9 p.m. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. See artwork created by reuse. These creations incorporate found objects, recycled materials or older works of art. The exhibit runs from Feb. 1-24. Exhibit details, plus information on four special workshops at www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/new-beginnings.

FEB. 1-MARCH 30

Art Exhibition: High School

Students. At The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its fourth year. This year's experience features more than 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent. Returning for 2019's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13

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IMAGE COURTESY OF PARTNERSHIP FOR DRUG-FREE KIDS

E-cigarettes come in a variety of forms.

How to Talk About Vaping

Approaching conversation about dangers of e-cigarettes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Jessica DeBoer's 13-year-old son just returned to school after a six-day suspension because he was caught vaping in the boys bathroom of his elite private school. Until she received a call from one of the school's administrators, DeBoer was not familiar with the practice and never dreamed her son would partake in it.

"Now I feel like I might have been naive considering how widespread it seems to be," she said. "My son told me that many of the kids in his school have tried vaping and some even do it regularly."

Vaping is the use of e-cigarettes to inhale and exhale an aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. The term is used because e-cigarettes produce an aerosol that consists of fine particles, many of which contain varying amounts of toxic chemicals.

For parents like DeBoer, keeping the line of communication open is a key weapon in keeping kids away from e-cigarettes, says therapist Lisa Baguio, LCSW. "Before talking with your teen about vaping, or any sensitive issue for that matter, educate yourself and make sure you know what you're talking about," she said. "Kids know more than we give them credit for. Be prepared with unrefutable facts and scientific evidence because you can guarantee yourself that your kids will have their own set of facts, which are often false."

Once you have those facts, be prepared to share them during a conversation with your teen. "It's important that parents are open and honest with their

children," said child psychologist Laurie Jones, Psy.D. "You first have to tell them your expectations. For example, 'In our family, we have zero tolerance for e-cigarette or tobacco use of any kind.' You then should explain the dangers and risks involved and make sure that your teen knows that this is not your just opinion, but proven hazards."

A teen might be less likely to engage in vaping if they can connect it to negative consequences that affect them personally, advised marriage and family counselor Joyce McCarry, M.A. "One thing that teens value is their image among their peer group," she said. "If vaping a substance causes bad breath, that will deter a teen from using it. If getting caught vaping means that they are kicked off a sports team, that will be a deterrent."

A parent's best tactic is creating an environment where one's teen feels comfortable sharing information about vaping and working with them

collaboratively to find ways to avoid it, says McCarry. "You want your child to let you know if they're vaping or have friends who are doing it," she said. "You can also let them know that if they're ever in a situation where they're being offered an e-cigarette, real cigarettes or drugs or anything dangerous, that they can call you and you will pick them up immediately with no questions asked."

"You also want you to give your child a way to get out of a risky social situation without feeling embarrassed."

— Joyce McCarry, M.A.

"You also want you to give your child a way to get out of a risky social situation without feeling embarrassed," continued McCarry. "I have a patient whose parents tell him to text them a numerical code whenever he's in a precarious situation with friends. The parents know to call his cell phone and tell him that there's a family emergency and he needs to come home right away. This gives the child an excuse to leave without feeling embarrassed or like he'll be ridiculed for not engaging in risky behavior."

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 11

Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

15th Annual Alexandria

Warehouse Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. At The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Deemed the “Super Bowl of Shopping Events” (always occurring the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend), the winter deals event is free to enter and will include a variety of new boutiques and retailers not only located in Alexandria, but throughout the Metro region. The event was the brainchild of Elizabeth Todd (co-founder of the Old Town Boutique District and owner of The Shoe Hive). Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com or www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356.

Happy Birthday, John Carlyle: A 1770s Celebration. 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Help wish a happy birthday to Alexandria town founder, Col. John Carlyle. Festivities will include 18th-century dancing, live music, and a birthday treat. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visit www.novaparks.com.

Locals’ Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Ester’s Granola tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

Seed Exchange. 12:30-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria. These seed swaps are in-person and face-to-face. Bring extra seeds and swap them with other gardeners. Everyone will leave with a bag full of seeds, new garden friends, and expert planting advice. \$20 per person. Registration is now open at WGSeedExchange-GSG.brownpapertickets.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 3

Walking With Washington Tour. 2-4 p.m. at Ramsay House, Alexandria Visitor’s Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington’s life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, Carlyle House, Wise’s Tavern, Duvall Tavern/Charles Lee House, Gadsby’s Tavern, Washington’s townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, the “Light-Horse” Harry Lee house and Christ Church. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria’s George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Free. Visit washingtonbirthday.com.

Tell Me Your Name. 3:30 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. In 2017 Carlyle House Historic Park undertook a new research project to improve their knowledge and interpretation of the site’s enslaved population. Join Maddy McCoy, founder of Slavery Inventory Database, LLC, for an illuminating tour on the new research of the enslaved community at Carlyle House. Conversation about

Front: Ilyana Rose as the boy Mute, and under the sign (from left): Janice Zucker as Hucklebee; Luis “Matty” Montes as Matt; Rachel Hogan as Luisa; and Stephen P. Yednock as Bellomy.

PHOTO BY
MICHAEL DEBLOIS



‘The Fantasticks’

The Tom Jones musical from 1960 is a tale of a boy, a girl, and their meddling fathers pushing the pair together by pretending to keep them apart. The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting “The Fantasticks” from through Feb. 2. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$29 to \$34. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

identifying enslaved individuals and their communities and putting that into a historical and genealogical context. Cost is \$10. Visit apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/2516 for tickets.

MONDAY/FEB. 4

Talk on Microgreens. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Discussion on Microgreens: What Are They, Why Are They So Fabulous, and How to Grow Them. This class is offered by Extension Master Gardeners with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

FEB. 6-MARCH 10

“Opposites Attract.” At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Show featuring everything Quiet and Loud, Large and Small, Smooth and Rough, Bright and Dull, Stiff and Flowing, Smiles and Frowns – the list goes on and the artists had a great time incorporating this theme into their work. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Family Splash Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Rec Center and Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Featuring George Mason and Matthew Maury schools. Enjoy swimming, a floating obstacle course, games, relays, refreshments, music, diving for prizes and more. Different schools are featured at each event but all are welcome. Admission is \$4 per person upon entry. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.
The Alligator Pears. 6-8 p.m. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St.,

Alexandria. The Alligator Pears features Piedmont Blues music. Beer and wine for sale; light refreshments available as well. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Reception and Gallery Talk: Ritualisms. 7-10 p.m. at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New Target Gallery Exhibition contemplates the universality of rituals. The exhibition juxtaposes different artists’ interpretations of rituals through their work, daily routines, habits, or personal quirks. It also brings in broader cultural formalities and religious ceremonies. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

ASO Presents: Mozart’s Prague Symphony. 8-10 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. New and old traditions collide in February with an exploration of the Classical-era symphony. The program centers on Mozart’s Symphony No. 38 “Prague,” juxtaposed with Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 1 “Classical.” The program will also feature soloists from the ASO for Bach’s Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 and Stravinsky’s Dumbarton Oaks. Adult, \$20-\$80; youth, \$5; student, \$10. Call 703-548-0885 or visit www.alexsym.org.

Locals’ Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Truly-Life soaps and bath products. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 10

Walking With Washington Tour. 2-4 p.m. at Ramsay House, Alexandria Visitor’s Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. See Feb. 3 listing for Walking with Washington tour details. Free. Visit washingtonbirthday.com.

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Corps of Engineers announces public information session for Decommissioning of Deactivated SM-1 Former Nuclear Power Plant at Fort Belvoir

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) is currently in the planning phase for the decommissioning and dismantling of the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant at Fort Belvoir, Va.

As part of that decommissioning planning, USACE is preparing an Environmental Assessment evaluating potential ecological, cultural, water, public health and safety, and waste management effects associated with the decommissioning of the SM-1 facility at Fort Belvoir.

USACE is also seeking consultation from members of the public (in addition to the state historic groups) to determine the cultural impacts of the decommissioning project and to mitigate any adverse effects identified in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

To aid in both of these aspects of the ongoing decommissioning planning for the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant and to gather feedback from the public, USACE is hosting a public information session on Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at the Fairfax County’s South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, Va.). The session will consist of an open house period with information posters where the public can meet and interact with USACE and Fort Belvoir personnel working on the project from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, which will be followed by a formal presentation about the SM-1’s history and ongoing decommissioning planning and a subsequent question and answer session and additional poster availability from 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

SM-1 Background: Completed in 1957, the deactivated SM-1 former nuclear power plant at Fort Belvoir was the first nuclear power facility in the United States to be connected to a public utility grid. Over several years it provided power primarily to Fort Belvoir and served as a training facility for nuclear technicians from all military branches before being partially decommissioned in the early 1970s.

The initial dismantlement and decommissioning involved the removal of a majority of the radioactivity from the site, including the removal of the nuclear fuel and control rods, decontamination work around the facility, radioactive waste removal, and the sealing of the Reactor Containment Vessel which hold the Reactor Pressure Vessel and other reactor components.

USACE is working to develop and finalize the various planning documents for the final decommissioning and dismantling of the facility. More information can be found on the SM-1 project web site: www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/SM-1/

Those wishing to provide written comments or questions regarding the SM-1 former nuclear power plant decommissioning can do so by e-mailing CENAB-CC@usace.army.mil or sending written comments to the following mailing address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Corporate Communication Office, 10-F-23, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD. 21201. Comments and feedback received at this time will inform the ongoing decommissioning planning efforts.

You can read any of this week’s 15 papers digital editions here:
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

What To Right About

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Today, Jan. 12, 2019 is National Glazed Donut Day and the day after my most recent post-scan appointment with my oncologist. A day when, if I'm lucky – as I have been for the past 10 years – my world will change for the better (donut consumption notwithstanding). However, the 'world' to which I refer is one fraught with danger and offers no more guarantees than I've been accustomed to.

To invoke the late, great Rod Serling: I am now entering "The Immunotherapy Zone."

Yes, a brand new – for me – treatment protocol: new drug, new side effects, new frequency, new lifestyle/fewer hassles (potentially), and most importantly: shrinkage (possibly), of my tumors, especially my "Adams Apple" tumor, as I've come to nickname the mass just below my Adams Apple (which is sort of bothering me, if you want to know the truth).

The nature of cancer treatment as I've experienced it – and learned from my oncologist is – if the drug is working, you continue it until it isn't (sounds simple I know). When it stops working, you change as the cancer has figured out the drug's intent. (Cancer cells are smart that way.)

Generally speaking, the cancer drug doesn't start working (shrinking, stabilizing) after it has stopped working (growing). Over my nearly 10 years, I have switched drugs upwards of a dozen times.

Now, I am switching again: to Opdivo, an immunotherapy drug, a class of drugs that didn't even exist a decade or so ago when I was first diagnosed, and one that has only been approved for the treatment of lung cancer since 2015. A drug that, to quote the television advertisement: "offers a chance at longer life."

And so, Team Lourie, two-thirds of it anyway, made the decision to switch and fight. Starting this Friday, I will be infused into the great unknown.

From what my oncologist explained yesterday, aside from the possible benefits, Opdivo has some potentially unpleasant side effects. However, continuing with my present infusion drug, Alimta, now that there's been some growth, is also likely to produce some unpleasant side effects: growth and movement.

And more growth/movement is the worst side effect, relatively and comparatively speaking. So we chose a definite over a maybe. If we continue with Alimta, there will be growth – definitely (that's how cancer works). If we opt for Opdivo, maybe there won't be growth, and maybe there might even be some shrinkage (the good kind).

As for lifestyle changes, there are, according to my oncologist, some quality of life improvements as well, or at least, more weeks in the month when potentially I'll be less impacted by my disease/treatment. Which along with my quality of life has always been a concern of my oncologist.

And, without getting into the details, I'm ready for a change.

Combined with the possibility of tumor shrinkage and fewer/different side effects (some patients report few side effects from Opdivo), I wouldn't say switching to an immunotherapy drug was enticing/a "no-brainer," but it does offer an alternative of sorts. And given where I've been treated from and where I'll be treated now, I am ready for something different.

Changing drugs is always a risk though; it could improve my life or it could make matters worse, a 'worse' from which quite frankly I might not recover (do you remember my yo-yo down-the-stairs visual from a few columns ago?). And I am familiar, unfortunately, with some less-than-encouraging accounts of patients not faring so well.

I just hope there's not a hole in my thinking. Oh wait. That's a hole in my donut. No worries. I'm happy to buy the donut and I never complain about the hole. That's the trade-off. I'm hoping, given the potential benefit of Opdivo, I can likewise live/trade-off with side effects.

My philosophy has always been to take the good with the bad – and vice versa, and after almost 10 years of rolling with the punches, I see no reason to change now.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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OPINION

400 Years

FROM PAGE 8

man who caught the gambler and the rest to "charitable and pious causes." Other 1619 legislation required every settler to plant six mulberry trees.

Flash forward 400 years and we are considering non-partisan redistricting, how best to allocate \$1.2 billion in prospective additional revenue and the fairest way to fund transportation improvements in Southwest Virginia. We'll also be considering the governor's incentive plan for Amazon to locate one of its HQ2 sites in Arlington and for Virginia Tech to locate a \$1 billion-plus Innovation Campus in Alexandria which will grow the tech talent pipeline to attract high-wage 21st Century jobs to Virginia.

I've introduced 25 pieces of legislation on a variety of topics ranging from marijuana decriminalization and domestic violence protections to campaign finance reform and e-cigarette taxation. My constitutional amendment to allow Virginia's Governor to seek election to a second consecutive four-year term passed the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee 8-6, and 6 of 6 of my bills heard on Monday in the Senate Courts of Justice and General laws committee are moving on. The bills include legislation to codify non-discrimination protections for LGBT people in public employment (passed 11-3) and housing (passed 13-1). Bills to stop the destructive cycle of debt caused by license suspension for non-driving related offenses (passed 13-0 with one abstention) and for the non-payment of court costs and fees (passed 14 to 0) advanced to the Senate Finance Committee for consideration.

The process to consider the governor's amendments to the existing biennial budget has begun as members also introduce amendments. I've introduced several with an eye to modernizing our election systems and one to provide some funding for the Task Force Commemorating the Centennial Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, on which I serve. The Centennial will occur in 2020 and I believe the state should be observing it with a museum exhibit, traveling exhibits for different regions, lectures, publications and a school curriculum as well.

Though the past of our state is complex, and its legacies are often mired in injustice, I am confident that our future is bright, and the history of tomorrow will be that of progress and inclusion. It is an honor to be a small part of building this path forward. I hope you'll be able to join me at one of my four town hall meetings to help me best represent the people of the 30th District in this duty:

❖ Mount Vernon: Saturday, Jan. 19, 9:30-11:15 a.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School (2500 Parkers Lane), with Senator Surovell and Delegate Krizek.

❖ Lee District: Saturday, Jan. 19, noon-2 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School (7633 Telegraph Road), with Senators Barker and Surovell and Delegates Mark Sickles and Paul Krizek.

❖ Alexandria: Saturday, Jan. 26, 10:30 a.m.-noon at Minnie Howard School Campus (3801 W Braddock Road) with Del. Mark Levine

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VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

**CHECK ENGINE
LIGHT DIAGNOSIS
NO
CHARGE**

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

**WE WILL RETRIEVE
VEHICLE CODES
& GIVE YOU
AN ESTIMATE
OF REPAIR COSTS.**



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SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

Jack Taylor's
**ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA**

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**

**ToyotaCare
Customers**

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000

Now Available Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰
Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

OIL & FILTER CHANGE

\$29⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC

\$44⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*,
inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with
print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads,
inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire
condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES**

\$10 OFF

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/19.

VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99

\$30.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99

\$45.00 OFF when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99

\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$400.00 or more

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AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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**FREE
BATTERY CHECK-UP**

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

\$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,
24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **12/18, 1/19,**
or **2/19**? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION

FREE

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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/19.

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT 703-684-0710 OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM



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73 Homes SOLD in 2018!

Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!

*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***

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January 12, 2019

Biggest Snow Storm since 2016!

Chris & Peggy held Open Houses which
resulted in 2 contracts!

No matter what the weather, Chris and
Peggy obtain the best results for their sellers!



9112 Volunteer Dr | \$655,000



8902 Beauchamp Dr. | \$550,000

JUST LISTED!



8314 Wagon Wheel Dr

Private Dock! | \$665,000

3 level Colonial situated on serene elevated lot overlooking natural wonderland. Private dock for your canoe, kayak, or small motor boat! Home has huge potential & features: 4/5 Bedrooms, large room sizes, hardwood floors, fully finished lower level w/ outside entrance, sunroom overlooking creek. Won't find another one like it!



**4021 Colonial Ave
\$1,130,000**

Incredible brand new build in desirable Mount Vernon area. Almost 5,000 square feet on a flat level half acre lot. 5 Bedrooms and 4.5 Baths with long list of builder selections that set this home

apart from your average build. Rare opportunity for a brand new build in Mount Vernon!

CONTRACT!



**9416 Old Mt Vernon Rd.
\$789,000**

Incredible opportunity to own a brand new 5 Bed/5.5 Bath home on 4 finished levels! Economical Gas appliances include: fireplace, cook top, heat and hot water. Hardwoods on main level,

open kitchen to family room w/ large island & breakfast area, 4 BR's on upper level w/ 3 baths including luxurious master suite, finished basement w/ rec room, bedroom, & full bath. 10 year builder warranty

SOLD!



**4417 Neptune Dr.
\$739,000**

Exceptionally unique and spacious Colonial on private .72 acre lot. Special features include: updated kitchen, updated baths, family room with gas fireplace opens to patio

overlooking serene pool scene, detached two car garage, extra parking area for RV/ Boat. Short walk to Mount Vernon Yacht Club and riverfront area!

SOLD!



**3708 Carriage House Ct
\$810,000**

Truly special property in prime location on gorgeous lot bordering Mt. Vernon Estate grounds. Fabulous home in pristine condition. Features include bright open floor plan, stunning glass

walled addition, updated expanded kitchen, gorgeous hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms including master suite with recently remodeled bath, & 2 car garage. Custom deck & brick patio overlook backyard & MV Estate

SOLD!



**4401 Granada St.
\$549,000**

Immaculate and spacious home on gorgeous flat lot. Features include: 4 Bedrooms, 3 fully updated Baths, top of the line updated Kitchen, refinished hardwoods on

main two levels, whole 3rd lower level just for storage, replacement windows and siding, New Roof (2013), garage and long additional list of updates. Great Value!

SOLD!



**9411 Mount Vernon Circle
\$959,900**

Incredible new price on one of Mount Vernon on the Potomac's most stately homes! Home has it all! 3 finished levels, high ceilings, estate room sizes, approx

6,500 sq ft of luxury at unheard of price. Community marina and brand new docks provide vacation vibe in convenient, close in location.

SOLD!

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